

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 CU-02 SY-04 USSS-00 OPR-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8901

INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 3451

HONG KONG PASS AMBASSADOR OSBORN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PIMJ BM UN

SUBJ: ARMY OCCUPIES UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

REF: RANGOON 3446

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL, BURMA ARMY BLOCKED ALL ROADS LEADING TO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MORNING OF DECEMBER 11 WITH TROOPS, BARBED WIRE AND ARMORED CARS. SECURITY FORCES MOVED ON TO THE CAMPUS ABOUT 0230. TEAR GAS WAS APPARENTLY USED TO DISPERSE RELATIVELY SMALL CROWD REMAINING AND SOME STUDENTS AND MONKS (NUMBERS RANGE FROM 70 TO 200) WERE ALLEGEDLY ARRESTED; THUS FAR NO CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ALTHOUGH THERE ARE RUMORS THAT SOME MAY HAVE OCCURRED. FOUR OR FIVE GOVERNMENT BUSES WERE BURNED IN DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF TOWN. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT A CROWD IS MARCHING TOWARD KVKSEIN POLICE CANTONMENT WHERE THE STUDENTS AND MONKS ARE DETAINED. ANOTHER CROWD COMING INTO TOWN TO DEMONSTRATE AT BSPP HEADQUARTERS WAS FIRED UPON BY TROOPS AND ONE STUDENT WAS WOUNDED.

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2. THE REMAINS OF U THANT HAVE APPARENTLY ALREADY BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CAMPUS AND INTERRED IN THE SITE OFFERED BY THE GUB NEAR THE SHWE DAGON PAGODA. THIS AREA TOO HAS BEEN SEALED OFF.

3. THE GUB IS NOW TIGHTENING ITS CONTROL OVER RANGOON. SECTION 144 OF CRIMINAL CODE WAS PUT INTO EFFECT MORNING OF DECEMBER 11 UNDER WHICH GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN FOUR PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATIONS, MARCHES, ETC. (THIS WAS USED DURING THE LABOR DISTURBANCES LAST MAY AND JUNE). ACCORDING TO GUB ANNOUNCEMENT ON BBS, THIS WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT ONE MONTH. MANY SHOVK AND SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICES HAVE BEEN CLOSED AT GUB DIRECTION AND SERVICES OF A NUMBER OF BUS LINES HAVE BEEN HALTED OR CURTAILED. AT OUR SUGGESTION, THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LOCATED NEAR THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 10. TRUCK LOADS OF TROOPS ARE ENTERING THE CITY AND THERE ARE REPORTS THAT CROWDS HAVE GATHERED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF TOWN IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW. CROWDS ALLEGEDLY HAVE BURNED DOWN A POLICE STATION IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF TOWN. AS OF 1300 HOURS WE CAN HEAR SPORADIC GUN FIRE A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE EMBASSY.
LACEY

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